SOUNDTRANSIT

## MOTION NO. M2013-11

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority approving a planning approach for the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan in order to meet the requirements for a potential public vote to fund the next phase.

## BACKGROUND:

This action allows staff to begin the planning process for implementing the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan, currently referred to as ST3.

The Agency uses both a long-range plan and an HCT system plan to guide the planning process for development and expansion of a high-capacity transportation system. A Long-Range plan presents a comprehensive view of the region's needs and a general vision for meeting those needs over the next 30 to 50 years. The Long-Range plan is implemented in a series of phases. An HCT system plan is more detailed. It breaks down parts of the long-range plan into individual, affordable projects to be implemented over the next 10 to 15 years.

The region's voters have approved two system plans, Sound Move in 1996 and Sound Transit 2 (ST2) in 2008. Both plans include funding for delivery and expansion of ST Express bus service, Sounder commuter rail, Central Link light rail, and Tacoma Link light rail. In order to prepare for the next incremental investment toward completion of the long-range plan, ST2 includes funding for a series of planning studies (HCT corridor studies) for potential system expansion in the north, east, south, and central corridors.

The work plan includes High-capacity transportation (HCT) corridor studies for the Ballard to Downtown Seattle Expansion (currently underway), South Corridor Alternatives Planning Study (currently underway), Lynnwood to Everett Corridor, Central and East Corridors (including the Eastside Rail Corridor), and South King County Corridors. The work plan also includes updates to the 2005 Sound Transit Long-Range Plan (Long-Range Plan) and environmental documentation, program-wide public involvement and outreach, and assignment and reassignment of staff, as needed.

The HCT corridor studies, Long-Range Plan update, and public involvement and outreach will begin in 2013. A three-stage approach will be used to develop a plan for the next phase of investments by 2016:

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| 1. | HCT Corridor Studies | 2013 - 2014 |
| 2. | Long-Range Plan Update with Environmental documentation | 2013 - 2014 |
| 3. | Next phase of the Regional HCT System Plan (ST3) | 2015 - 2016 |

The HCT corridor studies will help inform the Board's future decisions for corridor modes, alignments, profiles, project timing, and budget and implementation responsibilities. HCT corridor studies include the conceptual development of multiple alternatives, evaluation, and identification of a representative alternative for early comparative purposes. The studies will help:

- Narrow the range of HCT alternatives within the corridors
- Evaluate potential routes and station locations
- Inform local comprehensive planning about potential future Sound Transit actions
- Prepare for future formal environmental review and engineering

- Support the Board's decisions about which, if any, of the corridors might be included in the updated Long-Range Plan and establish priorities for development of the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan

Major work tasks to be completed in the HCT corridor studies include:

- Project Purpose and Need/Goals and Objectives
- Alternative Development and Analysis
- Development of Methodologies to Evaluate Alternatives
- Alternatives Evaluation
- Environmental Screening
- Risk Assessment
- Conceptual Ridership and/or Transit Market Potential Estimation
- Identification of TOD Opportunities
- Conceptual-level Design and Cost Estimates
- Administrative and Presentation Support
- Study Findings
- Draft and Final HCT Corridor Study Reports

More detailed analysis of alternatives will continue through the Long-Range Plan update and the development of ST3.

All the ST3-related staff and consultant planning activities occurring in 2013 were funded through a budget amendment to the Adopted 2013 Budget approved by the Board in December 2012. All consultant contracts funded through this budget will be presented for approval to the Board later in 2013.

**MOTION:**

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that a planning approach for the next phase of the Regional Transit System Plan in order to meet the requirements for a potential public vote to fund the next phase is approved.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on February 28, 2013.

Pat McCarthy
Board Chair

ATTEST:

Marcia Walker
Board Administrator